



Mississippi River Basin Initiative

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

North Raccoon River Partnership

North Raccoon River Partnership: Buena Vista & Pocahontas Counties

Farmers in seven small watersheds covering sections of **Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties** within the North Raccoon River Watershed have the opportunity to receive **higher payment rates** on conservation practices and systems that avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

It's part of the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). The goal of MRBI is to reduce nutrient loading in the Mississippi River Basin, which contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

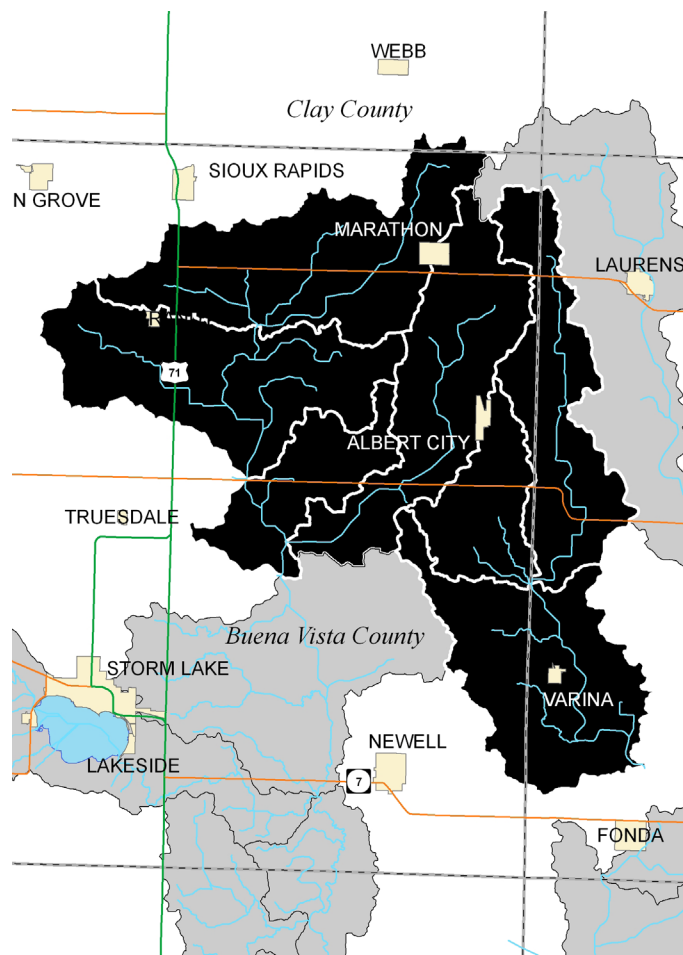
The Raccoon River drains 2.3 million acres in west-central Iowa, receiving water from 17 counties. The Raccoon River joins the Des Moines River just south of Des Moines.

The natural resource concerns in the Raccoon River Watershed directly relate to the objectives of the MRBI. **Water quality is the top priority of this project.** More specifically - the management of nutrients (nitrate and phosphorus), bacteria, and soil loss, as well as pollution from livestock runoff and storm discharge.

The North Raccoon River Partnership MRBI Project will be offered now through fiscal year 2014. To enroll, applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Farmers in this MRBI area have a set of core conservation practices to choose from; these are listed on the back page.

Farmers in the following North Raccoon River Sub-watersheds may be eligible for MRBI funding:

- Lateral 6
- Headwaters North Raccoon River
- Lateral 2
- Lateral 3
- Headwaters Little Cedar Creek
- Drainage Ditch 67
- Little Cedar Creek



For more information about the North Raccoon River Partnership and MRBI, contact your field office:

Buena Vista County
1617 North Lake Avenue
Storm Lake, IA 50588
Phone: 712-732-3096

Pocahontas County
600 West Elm Avenue
Pocahontas, IA 50574
Phone: 712-335-4790



Lead & Collaborating Project Partners:
 Buena Vista Soil and Water Conservation District
 Pocahontas Soil and Water Conservation District
 Buena Vista University (BVU)
 Iowa Soybean Association (ISA)
 Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)
 USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 Subwatershed Landowners and Producers

North Raccoon River Partnership MRBI Conservation Practice and Payment List

Practice	Payment Rate (Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.)
Cover Crops	\$30 - \$51/acre (up to three years)
Residue & Tillage Management, No-till/Strip-till	\$22 - \$50/acre (up to three years)
Grassed Waterways	\$1.16 - \$3.47/foot
Terraces	\$1.39 - \$3.80/foot
Nutrient Management	\$9.94 - \$38.52/acre
Prescribed Grazing	\$20.98 - \$67.93/acre
Waste Storage Facility	\$24 - \$517.50/animal unit

